



# NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST

HELP LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR THE NORTHWOODS

## Wisconsin Land Trust of the Year Award Winner

P.O. Box 321, Eagle River, WI 54521-0321

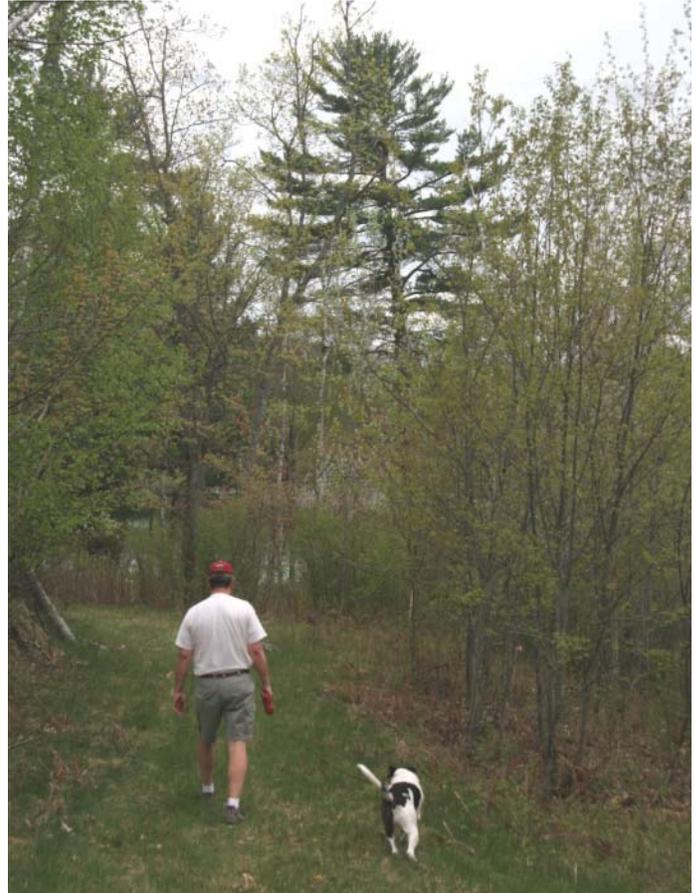
Spring 2010

### Protecting a Family Legacy on Bearskin Lake

By Willa Schmidt, NWLT Board Secretary

Jeff and Sara Wiesner of Waukesha recently signed a land protection agreement with the Northwoods Land Trust on their Oneida County Bearskin Lake property. The agreement, also known as a conservation easement, protects from subdivision or development approximately 38 acres and over 1,000 feet of natural shoreline in the town of Hazelhurst, a decision Jeff attributes to "a long family history of trying to conserve." His account of his family's connection to the northwoods and Wisconsin's environmental tradition bears this out.

Jeff grew up in Neenah. For years his grandparents rented a cottage near Minocqua on Squirrel Lake, later purchasing a retirement home. This was the family's annual vacation destination for most of the month of August. In 1990 when Jeff's parents, Frank and Marilyn Wiesner, were likewise approaching retirement, they decided to purchase a cottage on 400-acre Bearskin Lake. A few years later they had the opportunity to acquire two neighboring parcels, which were combined into the now



Jeff Wiesner hikes in to check on the active bald eagle nest in the large white pine overlooking Bearskin Lake in the background.



About 38 acres and over 1,000 feet of shoreline frontage on Bearskin Lake in Oneida County were conserved by Jeff & Sara Wiesner.

protected 38 acres. "My dad's philosophy was always that it was for hiking and wildlife and was never to be developed," Wiesner explains. "He died before he had an exit strategy to figure out how to protect it, so that's really the motivation for us to keep it the way it is. It's a neat piece of property and that's the way we want it to stay." Frank Wiesner had been on the Board of Trustees of The Nature Conservancy's Wisconsin chapter and was serving as its Chair at the time of his death.

(Continued next page)

#### mission:

The Northwoods Land Trust (NWLT) promotes conservation by private landowners of natural shorelands, woodlands, wetlands and other natural resources, as public benefits for present and future generations. The Northwoods Land Trust covers areas of Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Iron and Price Counties.

Phone: (715) 479-2490 Email: [nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org](mailto:nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org) Web site: [www.northwoodslandtrust.org](http://www.northwoodslandtrust.org)

## Northwoods Land Trust

### Purpose:

- To provide education and utilize voluntary conservation options with private landowners.
- To preserve natural shorelands on lakes, rivers and other waterways for protection of water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, erosion control, and natural scenic beauty.
- To conserve private woodlands and encourage landowners to manage their forest lands in an ecologically sustainable manner.
- To accept perpetual stewardship for secure conservation agreements with private landowners, such as easements, land donations and property acquisitions.
- To annually monitor NWLT land protection agreements.
- To seek support through donations, grants, endowments memberships and volunteers.
- To leverage our conservation efforts through partnering with other organizations and agencies.

Newsletter Editor: Bryan Pierce

Contributors:

Trisha Moore, Conservation Specialist

Willa Schmidt, Board Secretary

## Bearskin Lake - *continued*

The 38 acres consist of forested land, most of which is enrolled in the Department of Natural Resources Managed Forest Law program, devoted to promoting sustainable forest resources for future generations. Broad-winged hawks nest there, and a super-canopy white pine along the lake shore provides habitat for a pair of bald eagles that have successfully fledged offspring the past several years.

An important feature of the wetlands along the western shore is a natural spring, which provides recharge for the lake and remains open during the winter when the lake is ice-covered. As Northwoods Land Trust executive director Bryan Pierce notes, "It's extremely valuable for a lake to have that open spring. Birds and other wildlife congregate around it - otters are playing in there all the time. And the highly-oxygenated water flowing into the lake is critical for maintaining fish through the winter."

The Wiesners want no buildings on the property except for a small non-residential storage shed on backland away from the lake, and no roads except logging access trails. Since Bearskin Lake is an excellent fishing lake with a public boat ramp, anglers and other boaters can enjoy the benefits of the property's natural shoreline. Just one-quarter mile west is the Bearskin State Trail, used for public bicycling, hiking and snowmobiling, and three-fourths of a mile to the east is the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest, which also includes shoreline on Bearskin Lake.

In 1999 Jeff and Sara bought a lot and built their own place across the lake from the original cottage, at present still owned by Marilyn, keeping the lake a popular family destination. Four younger Wiesner siblings live in Wisconsin and

*(Continued next page)*



*An open spring provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife through the winter.*

Jeff Wiesner (holding sign) celebrates granting a conservation easement on his family land with NWLT Board members (from left) Mitch Olson, Vice-President Bob Martini, Bill Dickens, Executive Director Bryan Pierce, President Mary Schwaiger, Dan Wisniewski, Treasurer Sue Coffman, Secretary Willa Schmidt, Meta Reigel, Beth Tornes, Jerry Parker and John Huppert.



## You Can Help!

The Northwoods Land Trust is a non-profit, tax exempt conservation organization. Your gift of cash, stocks, bonds or other financial support is fully tax deductible as charitable contributions under federal law. Donations of property or conservation easements may also provide tax benefits while promoting the conservation of our northwoods.

Minnesota, allowing them to come back for frequent visits. Jeff's work as a management consultant fortunately provides him flexibility to spend time up north. He and Sara have three children, two studying at UW-Madison and one a high school junior. Colin, Dillon and Brenna love the northwoods too.



When asked what he likes most about the land Jeff says, "We just like the opportunity to be outdoors. It's an escape from PlayStation and television and all that kind of stuff. We walk it a lot. It's an exercise place for our dogs, and we do berry picking. We've had

some wonderful berry crops. The land is something we just go out and walk through more than anything else."

"We look at it a lot too, from the water," says Jeff. "We appreciate the fact that when we're sitting on the lake fishing, that it's just uninterrupted natural shoreline. On Thanksgiving we went kayaking, two days in a row. It was 27 degrees, but it was gorgeous! It was flat calm, and we had a great time. There were three otters along the shore of the property, and there was very thin skin ice along the edge of the lake, and they were coming up and busting through the ice and looking at us. I got some terrific pictures."

What message would he have for his great, great-grandchildren about why he protected this property? "It's just a family legacy," Jeff says. "We've always been northwoods and outdoors. That's always been a big part of the family on all sides, and to be able to do something to sustain that is just really important." He also has neighbors on the lake he hopes might eventually be inspired to follow his example.

Jeff found out about the opportunity to protect his land in perpetuity several years ago when settling his father's estate. He mentioned his dad's wishes to Wausau attorney Melissa Kampmann (Ruder Ware), who suggested he contact the Northwoods Land Trust. Jeff, who himself volunteers as a Board member of the Waukesha County United Way as well as his local community foundation and the Wisconsin Alumni Association, has great appreciation for the work of nonprofit groups such as NWLT.

A long family history of trying to conserve, and ultimately succeeding: that's an apt description of the Wiesners' generosity and foresight in ensuring that their beloved northwoods land will be kept in a natural state for the many generations to come.

## Woodlands, Wetlands & Wildlife Habitat Protect the Nicolet

By Trisha Moore, NWLT Conservation Specialist

On October 2, 2009, Don Behm represented his family of five siblings by signing 78.5 acres east of Eagle River, Wisconsin into a conservation easement. The property abuts public land and is comprised of woodlands, wetlands, old fields, and a two-story cabin, barn, and garage. The easement was uniquely drafted by one of the five land-owners of the property, David Behm. Both Dave and Don shared stories of the family property and the decision to work with Northwoods Land Trust to conserve it, forever.

The Behm property illustrates northwoods history and the birth of the Nicolet National Forest. In the 1930s, after the area was heavily logged, residents and new settlers were drawn to the area by newly-cleared land to homestead and farm. This agricultural frontier soon proved to be unsuitable for growing due to sandy, rocky soils and a short growing season. Many farmers were forced to forfeit their land to local governments after failing to pay taxes. Through federal buyouts to avoid local government bankruptcies, these properties eventually became the vast patchwork of public land we all now enjoy in the Nicolet-Chequamegon National Forest.

An old horse barn and fields still remain on the Behm property. While the fields are not farmed, they now provide great wildlife openings utilized by a variety of plant and animal species. Some of the highlights for the family have been observing a group of bobcats feeding near the cabin, moose, grey wolf, fisher, pine marten, sandhill crane, flying squirrel and sharp-tailed grouse!

A family friend from Omro, Wisconsin owned the property bordering both Nicolet National Forest and town of Washington lands. Harvey Behm, a mechanic also from Omro, worked on their vehicles and had been hunting and

*(Continued next page)*



Don Behm (center) joins NWLT Board President Mary Schwaiger and Executive Director Bryan Pierce in celebrating the easement signing.

## Behm Family - *continued*



*The Behm family farmstead includes a two-story cabin, horse barn, garage and old fields, as well as productive woodlands and wetlands.*

fishing Vilas and Forest counties for years. Harvey was invited up to the cabin which was now mostly used as a hunting cabin. Althea Behm, Harvey's wife, had a passion for the outdoors as well, so it was inevitable they would own the property when it was sold in 1970.

With five children still in school, Harvey and Althea thought it best to wait to move to the northwoods until all five of the children graduated. When the time came, the couple was certainly ready. Son Don recalled that moving day: "In 1978 when (Dave) graduated (my parents) planned to move up. So, at his graduation ceremony Dave was with the other high school graduates, my parents were in the gymnasium, and they already had the vehicles packed! As soon as the ceremony was over they drove up north, and Dave had to come up with a friend."

The five children of Harvey and Althea Behm include: eldest sibling Jeff - a UW-Oshkosh associate professor of anthropology; Don - a journalist for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel; Jeanette - a Watsu therapist/entrepreneur; Sylvia - former computer systems manager; and youngest sibling, Dave. Dave Behm has worked in the conservation field in three states for over 20 years and is currently the farmland protection program manager for the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets. This experience led to Dave writing the easement for the family property, a first for the Northwoods Land Trust. Don Behm is also familiar with

conservation easements through his statewide reporting on conservation issues.

Dave had the opportunity to spend the most time on the property with his parents. During the five years post-graduation, he lived with them in the two-story cabin when not attending school. "I accompanied and assisted my mother with wildflower identification and wild edible plant collection," he said. "Bracken fern fiddleheads and various berries and cherries were the principal delicacies we enjoyed. She enjoyed the fascinating detail of a plant's leaf characteristics almost as much as the color of a beautiful bloom." Don noted that she even painted the names of wildflowers on stones along the edge of a wooded kettle to help others identify the blooms they observed.

"Dad shared my interest in cross-country skiing and helped me establish the four-mile trail system on the property," said Dave. "He would often make critically important contributions in not only physical labor - he remained a very strong man throughout his life - but also in strategic decisions on the location of trail corridors."

"Mom also enjoyed the trails," Dave continued. "Because I have always maintained a journal of my ski touring outings, she would kid me about how far she had skied on a given day, often jokingly proclaiming that she had skied some 500 miles! After she passed away, we came to refer to our system as the '500 Mile Memorial Trail' in loving memory of her. Lastly, each trail segment is named after some memory of past outings in the woods. For example, Pin Cherry Lane is so designated because Mom and I once stood atop our pickup truck to pick clean a heavily-laden tree. No cherry jam will ever taste as good as from that batch!"

For years the family continued to use the property for recreation including hiking, berry-picking, hunting, wildlife observation, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. As time passed, Harvey became more and more concerned with how the land would be gifted to his children someday.

Dave explained the path that led to conserving the property: "Our parents enjoyed the beauty, the seasonal variation, and the annual renewal of the property - and the tranquility that it brought to each of them. The property was important on a very personal level and it had become the single-most significant financial asset to pass along to their children. After discussing potential options with him, I suggested to my dad that he discuss his intent with an attorney and to specifically inquire about retaining a life estate while transferring ownership to us. A few months later, he had completed the necessary paperwork. Thereafter, he was comforted with the knowledge that his and our mother's wish would be realized."

"About 12 years ago and after discussing this idea with my father, I wrote to my brothers and sisters and asked them to consider placing a perpetual conservation easement on the deed to forever prevent this much-loved

*(Continued on page 7)*

# NWLT Annual Report of Contributions Received in 2009

Our heartiest Thank You to all of our continuing members and contributors, and welcome to our new members and supporters!

## Conservation Easement Donors

23.85 acres	Thomas & Eileen Pawlacyk (N&M Nationwide, Inc.)
37.8 acres	Jeffrey Wiesner & Sara Ford Wiesner (Trust)
4.41 acres	Don & Sue Kratsch (Trust)
78.5 acres	Jeffery Behm, Don Behm, Sylvia Behm, Jeanette Schachtner, David Behm
11 acres	Dr. Gene & Phyllis Likens (Trust)
120 acres	Dr. Walter & Donna Gager
813 acres	Highlands Limited Partnership of Wisconsin - Michael, Rick, Charlie, Anna & Bart Wellenstein

## Conservation Land Donors

5.62 acres	Patrick Dugan & Sue Hausserman-Dugan
------------	--------------------------------------

## Trade Land Donors

21.9 acres	Estate of Carl Anderson
1 acre	Maxine Gere
214 acres	Anonymous Estate Gift

## Foundation & Government Grants

\$56,190	DNR Lake Protection Grant Program
\$26,632	John C. Bock Foundation
\$15,599	Wisconsin Environmental Education Board - Forestry Education Program
\$10,000	DNR River Planning Grant Program
\$7,500	Arthur L. & Elaine V. Johnson Fdn.
\$3,000	Modestus Bauer Foundation (David Reich)
\$500	Natural Resources Fdn. of Wisconsin - Dale Druckery Fund
\$100	Community Fdn. of North Central Wisconsin - Nancy Frawley Fund
\$50	Kimberly Clark Fdn. - Employee Matching Gifts Fund

## Organization Contributions

\$10,000	Wildlife Hunt Club
\$1,000	First National Bank of Eagle River
\$500+	Isthmus Engineering & Manufacturing Cooperative Consulting
\$100+	Squash Lake Association
	Snipe Lake Association
\$50+	Compass Land Consulting LLC

## Memberships, Memorial Gifts & Other Contributions

\$2,000 +	Nancy & Mark Nebgen
	Tannica & James Bragiel
	Richard & Mary Jo Aylward
	Michael & Peg Uihlein

## \$1,000-\$1,999

	Jean B. & E.T. Juday Gift Fund
	Don & Sue Kratsch
	Patricia Juday
	Richard & Helen Thomas
	DiAnne & Terry Hatch
	Bill Hintz
	Sybil & Howard Holtzer
	Dr. Gene & Phyllis Likens
	William Slabich
	Thomas & Jo Ann Turriff

## \$500-\$999

	Meta Reigel
	Bryan Pierce & Gail Gilson-Pierce
	Willa Schmidt & Kim Genich
	John & Jan Huppert
	Ken & Carolyn Aldridge
	Jim & Kathy Holperin
	Barbara Heil Howard
	Charles & Carol James
	Allan Kauth
	Al & Kathy Nagy Family
	Sarah Perry (Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund)
	Don & Mary Spencer

## \$250-\$499

	Dr. Frederick Laun
	Mitchell & Sara Olson
	Douglas Mac Kenzie & Mr. & Mrs. David O. Mac Kenzie (MACFUND)
	William & Susan Sprinkmann
	Bob & Jill Delaney
	Leo & Joyce Fronza
	Ward & Judith Fuller
	Bob & Linda Growney
	Susan & Dirk Herr-Hoyman
	Stephen & Karen Malkin
	George Olsen
	Bill Reilly & Jane Letherman Reilly



NWLT's largest conservation easement project to date was granted in 2009 on an 813-acre tract surrounding Fredrich's Flowage by the Wellenstein family (Highlands Limited Partnership of Wisconsin).

## \$250-\$499

	Janette Smart
	Elizabeth Uihlein
	James & Ruth Ann Wiersma

## \$100-\$249

	Deanna Braeger
	Pete & Brenda Davison
	Julie Dolinky
	Judith Hall & Donald Sargent
	Clifford & Jeanne Haskins
	Jack & Patti McKeithan
	Dr. Kenneth & Anne Powell
	Gene & Donna Welhoefer
	Mary Briscoe
	Virginia & Michael Bolger
	Bill & Ruth Jaeger
	Georgie & Webb Southwick
	Bette Jo & William Sullivan
	Bob Martini & Kathleen Vick-Martini
	Marion Schoofs
	Alan Albee
	Susan & Gerald Anderson
	Mary Jo Berner
	Doug & Bonnie Block
	Thomas Bush
	Sue Coffman
	Jon Curry
	Katy & Jim Dyreby
	Tom & Terry Ellis
	Bev Engstrom
	Gregg Ewert
	Jennifer & Doug Fitzgerald Family
	Dr. Walt & Donna Gager
	Donald & Karen Grade
	James Greenspan
	Bob & Joelle Gregorcich
	Nancy & Edward Hanson
	Dick & Colleen Hemming
	Thomas & Ellen Katisch
	Donald Koskinen
	Mary Lou Lipscomb
	Vera Pierce & Rita McCabe
	Mary & Chris McCann

## \$100-\$249

	Mark & Sarah McGuire
	Atty. Ed Mouw
	Mary Murphy
	William & Susan Niemuth
	Leo & Marilyn Norden
	John and Jane O'Brien
	Jerry & Ginny Parker
	Bill & Kathy Pielsticker
	Ralph & Pam Pound
	Dr. Roger & Consie Powell
	John Roberts & Nancy Osterberg
	Otto & Kay Scharpf
	Harvey Scholfield
	Mary Schwaiger
	Julia & Christopher Solomon
	Martha Staller
	Paul Staskowski
	Sherman & Sally Stock
	Jeanine Thubauville & Brian Clarridge
	Helen & Robert Towner
	William & Ann Trebilcock
	Thomas Tuttle
	David Ullrich
	Thomas Uttech
	J.S. & Elizabeth Van Alsborg
	Guy & Janice Vitello
	Michael & Cori Wellenstein
	Karen & David Widule
	Dan Wisniewski
	David & Barbara Young

## \$50-\$99

	Rob Thoms
	Thomas & Elizabeth Drought
	Rick Rollman
	Bill & Barbara Schweisheimer
	Gerald & Karen Moore
	Chris Tews
	Jeane Stites
	Alec Albee
	James & Tonna Appelgren
	Richard & Evelyn Bjorkland
	Jim & Peggy Boerke

(Continued on Page 6)

# NWLT Annual Report of Contributions Received in 2009 - continued

Our sincerest Thank You to all of our continuing members and contributors, and welcome to our new members and supporters!

## Memberships, Memorial Gifts & Other Contributions - continued

### \$50-\$99

Jim & Mary Brill  
 Carol Shoberg Brown  
 April & Edward Carroll  
 Leane & David Cerven  
 Dan Claussen  
 John & Timmie Clemetsen  
 William & Karen Collins  
 Dennis Corcoran  
 Jean & Jerry Crawford  
 Pete Daniels  
 Andrew Davis  
 Dr. David Dawson  
 Atty. William Dickens, Jr.  
 Colleen Dougherty & Steven Marcus  
 Ed Drager  
 Barbara Fabry  
 Alvaro & Michele Figueroa  
 Mary Lou Findley  
 Vincent Fonti  
 Jay Franke & Pamela Baker  
 Kent & Jerry Fuller  
 Christopher Galaty  
 Ione Garcia  
 Michael Gillen  
 Robert & Kathleen Gramann  
 Ronald & Patricia Groebe  
 Betty & Truman Gussick  
 Tim Hagen  
 Kay & Clayton Hahn  
 Chuck & Jill Haubrich  
 Ken & Virginia Head  
 Alice Huebner  
 Richard Keesey  
 James & Liesa Kerler  
 Robert & Cynthia Krizenesky  
 Lloyd W. Lange, DDS and Family  
 Marlette Larsen  
 David & Sandra Martin  
 Charles & Nancy Mead  
 Martha Metzger  
 Walter Naab  
 John Neu  
 Emilie Ngo-Nguidjol & Aliko Songolo  
 Kathy & David Noel  
 William & Anita Nohava  
 Carolyn O'Brien  
 Darrell & Pat Passo  
 Herbert & Lucia Prochnow  
 Cathy Richardson  
 Tom & Judy Saeger  
 Ruth Sanderson  
 William & Christa Shackelford  
 Jack Siepert  
 Janice Sisley  
 Wendy Hall Smith  
 James Stein & Norma Jung-Stein  
 Wendy Trost  
 Mike Van Asten  
 Kay Wagner & Gary Kvasnica  
 Walter & Janet Wellenstein  
 Charles & Joan Whitburn

### \$50-\$99

Charles Wilfer, Sr.  
 Thomas Wilson  
 Patty & John Wineman  
 Mitch & Suzanne Wolf  
 J. Daniel & Lee-Ann Woodman  
 Fred & Karen Young

### \$1-\$49

Adele Anderson  
 John Aldridge & Diane Muri  
 Richard Anderson & Jana Mason  
 Jim & Jane Anderson  
 David & Beverly Baar  
 Lee & Susan Basten  
 Dr. James Bennett  
 Robert & Jean Bergenthal  
 Dr. Dean & Barbara Bordeaux  
 Charles Bremigan, Jr.  
 John & Carolyn Cain  
 Pamela & Gary Crapp  
 Muriel Curry  
 Roland & Diane DeGrand  
 Ron & Jan Eckstein  
 Dr. Scott & Mary Ewers  
 Richard & Catherine Farrenkopf  
 Marcia Flynn  
 John & Pier Elissa Geis  
 Don & Sandy Gillum  
 Bill & Joanie Green  
 Norda & Carl Gromoll  
 Raymond & Marilyn Helminiak  
 Denise & Stephen Herzberg  
 Jack & Sue Hill  
 Gregory & Dr. Paula Hillmann  
 Reijo & Thelma Huttunen  
 Shelly & Jim Janowski  
 Ken & Christin Jaworski  
 Nancy Jesse & Paul Menzel  
 Glenn & Mary Jonas  
 Sarah Juon  
 Thomas & Deborah Klein  
 Don & Jeannine Laibly  
 Rick & Linda Lane  
 Dr. Edmund & Patricia Liebl  
 Atty. Tuck & Peggie Mallory  
 John & Kathy Meiners Family  
 Gary Meister & Laura Van Valkenberg  
 Robert & Marcelina Metropoulos  
 Dr. Barbara Millen & Markley Boyer  
 Trisha Moore & Mark Shepherdson  
 Mark & Ruth Mortensen  
 Doug, Melissa, & Oleg Novinski  
 Paul Pagel  
 Jurgen & Jean Patau  
 Robert & Carol Pederson  
 Donald & Carol Pockat  
 John & Mary Ellen Sanderson  
 Joseph & Stephanie Schmitz  
 James Schwarzburg



Over 1,500 feet of shoreline frontage on Eagle River and Nine Mile Creek were permanently protected by easement donors Don & Sue Kratsch.

### \$1-\$49

Ian & Monie Shackelford  
 Avery & Judie Smith  
 George & Terry Smith  
 Arnold & Karen Styles  
 Rich & Kitty Swiontek  
 Scott & Paula Taebel  
 Erv & Nancy Teichmiller  
 Beth Tornes  
 Pete Victoria  
 Patricia Vine & Elizabeth Simms  
 Edward & Leslie Vogel  
 Nancy & Howard Wallace  
 June & Albert Wedell  
 Malcolm Fell  
 John Alt  
 Jen Alward  
 Dr. Paul & Bette Appel  
 Mary Arnold  
 Marian Benz  
 Betty Beverly  
 Kevin Brewster  
 Dale Bronson  
 Julie Burt  
 Dennis & Ginny Buschke  
 Donald James Childs  
 Bob & Sandra Crawford  
 Russell Dreva  
 Michael Eschenbach  
 Jim & Aliza Faber  
 Leslie Gauberti  
 John Griffith  
 Diane Gruenke  
 Craig Hatlevig  
 John & Betty Hicks  
 Richard Hosman  
 Anne Huebner  
 Jean Jakusz  
 David Jurss  
 Sally Ann Kelly  
 Amanda Kill  
 Nancy Kindt  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Klinger  
 Jonathon Kopchinski  
 Kim Kost  
 Frank & Amy Laundrie  
 David Martin  
 Keith & Josie McCaffery  
 Herbert Meshun  
 Ronald & Patricia Nelson

### \$1-\$49

Charlene Nemeč  
 George Ojdrovich  
 Richard Olson  
 Tammy Pedriana  
 Norman & Jane Peterson  
 Bill Reardon  
 Pamela Reinkober  
 Ray & Marie Reynolds  
 Eugene Roark  
 Deborah Rohde  
 Connie Rollman  
 Dorothy Rooney  
 Norris Ross  
 June Schmaal  
 Peter R. & Olivia Schumann  
 James & Shirley Seymour  
 Bob & Lisa Sorge  
 Russell Spuhler  
 Charles Stearns  
 Eugene Step  
 Janice Stewart  
 Joseph Stoeckl  
 Mike Szarkowitz  
 M.E. Woodworth Turner  
 Elizabeth Tuttle  
 James Vaughan  
 Dean Viverito  
 Anne & Jeff Weber  
 Edward Werstein  
 Ken & Barbara Wiesner  
 Paul Withington  
 Richard & Mariel Henske  
 Dale & Debi Nelson  
 Betsy Bricker  
 Linda Erdmann, CPA  
 Janice Gumz  
 Susan Puncocar  
 Mrs. Reed Huenink

*Please note:  
 We want to acknowledge your gift. If we have made an error, please let us know so we can correct it in our database and in future publications. Thank you for your outstanding support for the Northwoods Land Trust!*

**Behm Family - continued from page 4**

property from being further developed or subdivided," said Dave. "I also provided some background information about conservation easements. While none objected to the idea at the time, there was no further action or discussion taken until two years ago - about eighteen months after our father passed away. When we convened to discuss the future of the property, it quickly became apparent that we should proceed with a conservation easement. Don provided copies of information about the Northwoods Land Trust for our review (as well)."

After the family meeting in August of 2008, Dave drafted a conservation easement, using his own conservation expertise. In February, 2009 the easement draft was submitted to the Northwoods Land Trust and after a few alterations was signed into agreement by the siblings.

While the task of putting an easement on a property can seem overwhelming, Dave felt like the process was a smooth one. "On behalf of our family, but also from my own experiences with other conservation easement transactions throughout my career, I know that this was a relatively quick and easy process and a straight-forward negotiation with Northwoods Land Trust," he commented. "Bryan's professional attention to detail, his respectful consideration of a landowner's current and future needs, and his overall pleasant demeanor throughout the negotiation process made this transaction fairly effortless for us."

"On both a personal and professional basis, I not only enjoyed the process but I also feel a great sense of satisfaction," said Dave. That satisfaction comes, in part, from knowing that this land will be protected from any subdivision in the future while still retaining full ownership and allowing the property to be used for forestry, trails, hunting, and other forms of recreation.

Dave also shared important insights into making a

family decision of this magnitude. "It is essential that family members openly discuss their individual and collective wishes and desires regarding the use and ownership of their property," he said. "In doing so, they will inform and educate each other about their current and future management and ownership opportunities and obligations to one another. Our own experience with five siblings required a dozen years for that decision to become self-evident. What is most important, I believe, to take away from our family's experience is that it is vitally important for everyone to give themselves the time necessary to openly and thoroughly discuss/ponder/evaluate - and then decide on what to do."

The Northwoods Land Trust is committed to helping landowners through the process of choosing the best conservation option for their properties. If you have questions or concerns regarding the future of your family lands, contact NWLT at (715) 479-2490 or email us at [nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org](mailto:nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org).



*"It is essential that family members openly discuss their individual and collective wishes and desires regarding the use and ownership of their property." - Dave Behm*



**JOIN THE NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST**

HELP KEEP THE NORTHWOODS THE NORTHWOODS!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (w): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (h): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Contributions**

- Individual \$25
- Family \$35
- Supporter \$50
- Founder \$100
- Conservator \$250
- Steward \$500
- Land Legacy \$1000
- My additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is also enclosed.

**Interests**

- I have property I may wish to conserve, please send me the free landowner's guide.
- I am interested in becoming a volunteer to assist the NWLT.

**Please make checks payable to:**

Northwoods Land Trust, Inc.  
PO Box 321  
Eagle River, WI 54521-0321

- I am interested in the NWLT Council of Trustees.



## Volunteer Monitoring in 2010

The Northwoods Land Trust will soon be kicking off its monitoring season with a volunteer training. Each property that NWLT owns or holds an easement for must be monitored on an annual basis. This ensures that contact is kept with landowners, the conservation easement is being upheld, and helps the organization meet accreditation standards. Monitoring is accomplished by meeting with landowners, walking the property and taking photos of any changes to the land or structures. This is typically done during the snow-free months with the help of many dedicated volunteers.

In 2009, the monitoring season ended in November after all 42 easement and two NWLT-owned properties had been visited. Twenty-four volunteers and Northwoods Land Trust staff completed the monitoring, logging over 180 hours! In 2010, 48 easement properties and three owned properties must be monitored. We will rely on those same volunteers and several new trained volunteers to accomplish this goal.

A volunteer training session will be held starting at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28th. If you are interested in helping the Northwoods Land Trust as a monitoring volunteer or in another capacity please contact Trisha at (715) 479-2490 or [nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org](mailto:nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org). 



Volunteer Bill Reardon (left) meets with landowner Don Kratsch.

## 2009 Anonymous Stock Donation

Our wonderful donor family from the Rhinelander area, who wishes to remain anonymous, came through in a big way again! NWLT is very pleased to be the recipient of their large gift of stocks to support our conservation work.

These stocks have appreciated in value over the years, in spite of the economic downturn. As a result, the stock donation has important donor tax benefits from a capital gains perspective. The real benefit though is knowing their gift will make a big difference in helping to protect our beautiful northwoods - a gift that truly lasts. Our sincerest appreciation for the family's outstanding support! 



**NORTHWOODS LAND TRUST**

P.O. BOX 321, EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521-0321

### Board of Directors & Staff

Mary Schwaiger, President  
Bob Martini, Vice-President  
Willa Schmidt, Secretary  
Sue Coffman, Treasurer  
Pete Davison  
Bill Dickens  
Jim Holperin  
John Huppert  
Mitchell Olson  
Jerry Parker  
Meta Reigel  
Beth Tornes  
Dan Wisniewski  
Bryan Pierce, Exec. Director  
Trisha Moore, Conservation Specialist

*Please remember NWLT in your annual and planned giving. Give a gift that will last forever!*

Nonprofit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Eagle River, WI  
Permit No. 47